

## CASE REPORTS

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## Achievement of Total Thyroidectomy

MANY PEOPLE SAY that perhaps a total thyroidectomy is . . . impossible. So we made a study in which we did postoperative scans in a group of patients and found that 87 percent had an uptake equivalent to the background uptake, which means they had virtually a total thyroidectomy. . . . I think it's higher now. We advocate total thyroidectomy for invasive cancer of all types—meaning that they have broken through the capsule but they are not microcancers, or that they have shown evidence of invasion either of thyroid tissue or extrathyroid tissue. The operation can be done safely and it can be done completely.

—JOSEPH N. ATTIE, MD, *New York City*

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